

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A mower deck comprising:

a mower housing defining at least one cutting chamber, the mower housing having a front portion and a rear portion, the rear portion of the mower housing having: (a) at least one sidewall which defines a discharge opening, the sidewall having an extension configured to guide a flow of material from the discharge opening to a destination, the extension having a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the sidewall, the second end being located further from the front portion region of the mower housing than the first end, the second end having at least one engagement region;

an insert having at least one engagement region, the insert configured to block the discharge opening when the insert is attached to the rear portion of the mower housing ; and

at least one fastener configured to couple the engagement region of the insert to the engagement region of the second end of the extension, a portion of the fastener being configured to be positioned adjacent to the rear portion of the mower housing, the portion of the fastener being movable between:

(a) one position resulting in the insert being attached to the rear portion of the mower housing; and

(b) another position resulting in the insert being: (i) detached from the rear portion of the mower housing; or (ii) detachable from the rear portion of the mower housing through hand manipulation of the insert; and

at least one cutting blade rotatably coupled to the mower housing, the cutting blade being positioned within the cutting chamber.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The mower deck of Claim 17, wherein the insert is coupled to the sidewall via a single fastener wherein the rear portion of the sidewall includes a guide member, the guide member operable with the fastener to maintain the position of the insert at the discharge opening when the insert is attached to the rear portion.

Claim 19 (original): The mower deck of Claim 17, which includes a mulch ramp positioned on an underside of the top surface, above the blade, the ramp operating to direct grass out at an outer portion of the blade towards an inner portion thereof.

Claim 20 (original): The mower deck of Claim 17, wherein the discharge opening is oriented with respect to a rotational direction of the cutting blade to be in-line with a direction of air and grass flow caused by the rotational direction.

Claims 21-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (previously presented): A mower deck comprising:

a top surface;

a cutting blade rotatably supported beneath the top surface;

at least one sidewall extending downward from the top surface and forming a cutting chamber within which the blade rotates, the sidewall including a front sidewall portion and a rear sidewall portion, the rear sidewall portion having:

(a) a discharge wall which defines a discharge opening;

(b) a material director having: (i) a first end adjacent to the rear sidewall portion; and (ii) a second end located further from the rear sidewall portion than the first end, the material director operable to guide a flow of material from the discharge opening to a destination beyond the second end of the material director;

(c) a fastener support wall connected to the second end of the material director;

(d) an insert configured to: (i) be attached to the rear sidewall portion; and (ii) block the discharge opening when the insert is attached to the rear sidewall portion; and

(e) at least one fastener operable to couple the insert to the fastener support wall, a portion of the fastener configured to be positioned adjacent to the second end of the material director.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The mower deck of Claim 17, wherein: (a) the insert has a plurality of ends and an engagement region adjacent to each one of the said ends; and (b) the sidewall of the rear portion of the mower housing has at least one other engagement region in addition to the engagement region of the second end of the extension, the insert being configured so that, when the insert is attached to the rear portion of the mower housing: (a) one of the engagement regions of the insert is engaged with the engagement region of the second end of the extension; and (b) another one of the engagement regions of the insert is engaged with the other engagement region of the sidewall of the rear portion of the mower housing.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The mower deck of Claim 41, wherein the fastener support wall includes a guide member, and the insert includes a portion configured to engage the guide member.

Claim 43 (previously presented) The mower deck of Claim 42, wherein the fastener support wall includes a member selected from the group consisting of a wall defining an opening and a protruding member.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The mower deck of Claim 40, wherein: (a) the rear sidewall portion has: (i) a plurality of fastener support walls including a first fastener support wall and a second fastener support wall; and (ii) a first attachment member positioned at the first fastener support wall; and (b) the insert has: (i) a first insert attachment member configured to be removably coupled to the first fastener support wall through hand manipulation of the insert; and (ii) a second insert attachment member configured to be removably coupled to the second fastener support wall through movement of the fastener.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The mower deck of Claim 44, wherein the material director is an extended portion of the rear sidewall portion.

Claim 46 (previously presented) The mower deck of Claim 45, wherein the mower deck is connectable to a machine operable to travel along a travel line, the mower deck having has a center line parallel to the travel line, the extended portion being configured to guide the material along another line which intersects with the center line.